

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

Vol. 9 No. 6

Serving St. David's & St. John's Episcopal Churches

Summer 2003

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St. David's

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector, Church Box 103
Edith Cole, Secretary, Box 26
Sue Gabel, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director

Vestry

John Strickler, Sr. Warden, Box 134
Jerry Williams, Jr. Warden, Box 115
Steve Leiby
Ron Schavey, Box 44
Dawn Sonnenberg, Box 138
Gail Donovan, Box 17
Debbie Davis, Box 28
Tom George, Box 119
John Post, Box 87
Charlotte Byers, Box 71
Amber Matthews, Clerk to the Vestry, Box 167

St. John's

Rev. Carol A. Spangenberg, Rector
Karen Gin, Secretary
Chris Stapor, Treasurer

Vestry

Ted Dotts, Senior Warden
Will Walker, Junior Warden
Deborah Walker, Secretary
Mary Stafford
Charles Andres
Cara Stapor
Sandra Garrison
Stephen Stofflet
Alma Stahl
Brett McRae
Karen Steiner

Newsletter

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St. David's Episcopal Church

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Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Friday 7:00 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

What I got from EFM

By Gerry Puro

A Dally through the Valley

Our father Who's art is everywhere including Barb our mentor. Thy kingdom and class' will will and be done on earth as it was in Genesis, Exodus, Numbers....also in METAPHORS. Exit o' dus out of Genesis and Isaiah. Leav itus cus deu to irony; Joshua will introduce us to Judges, and double whammies with Samuel and Kings which reminded us to obey God or watch out for disasters as seen in their newspapers (Chronicles). They were revived by Ezra, Nehemiah, saved by Ester, and saw loyalty in Ruth. Forgive us our trespasses, lead us, Job and Lamentations away from suffering, as we learn from Wisdom, Psalms and Proverbs; get easy class tricks from the Song of Solomon.... I could go on, but it's not telling you all anything.

This class gave me clues to where many prayers and songs came from, and also a lot of information about the early tribes starting from Abraham and Jacob. They are all a part of Israel's history. We discussed myths and reality and the meaning from stories like Adam and Eve and Noah. Learning English around ages 7-9 and raised in the Catholic Church, I did a lot of memory of words, prayers and Latin, but I didn't always connect the history and reasoning with it

Personally, I met five different people with different heritages and backgrounds, each displaying a different knack and approach with different highlights and all shining stars. This all brought me to a different view and approach to daily life and problems making me realize my problems are small compared to others' lives, especially Old Testament people. The activities made me think slower before reacting or acting harshly, but also opened my eyes to life all around me. Some of life's problems seem to be smaller if I put a little prayer and reading towards them. I saw it working alone and in our class when things weren't really bonding at first. Then things started to progress up happy stair steps.

Some of the world's problems today are no different than thousands of years ago, which makes me think God must understand men's and women's minds.

EFM begins a new year with an introductory meeting on Sunday August 24, 1- 4 p.m. At that time we will talk a bit about Theological Reflections and Group Dynamics, both important to the EFM process. This will also be the time to sign up and pay the registration fee of \$340.00 for the year. For further information about EFM contact Barbara Van Dyke at (517) 699-2366.

Reverend Carol's message

The Trinity

We are constantly hearing the words that represent the Trinity. We hear them in the blessings, the creeds, the Scripture, the prayers, and in the Catechism of the Church. We cross ourselves in the name of the Trinity, we listen to sermons on the Trinity and we may even think of it when we see a triangle or a three leaf clover. So much of our time in worship is held in the words and symbols of the Trinity. But how many of us really understand the significance of this thing we call the "Trinity."

The Trinity is mentioned in Scripture in many ways, from the Gospels to the Epistles of Paul. It is the core of our faith and our liturgy. The Trinity is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father who created us and our universe. The God who gives us breath and life, and who is to be worshiped and glorified at all time and places. God the Son is Jesus the Christ, who came in human form so that we may know him and understand his mission here on earth; to give his life so that we might live in this life and in the one to come. Jesus didn't just grow up and be crucified on the cross. He traveled and live among the people, teaching them a whole new world of action and thought. He gave us the understanding of great peace and love, and what that looked like in one's everyday existence.

After the Ascension the Apostles meant in Jerusalem to get themselves organized. During this time a group of men were together and they had a very frightening and mysterious thing happen to them ... they all started to understand each other in foreign tongues. They could speak and hear each other in their native speech. At this time the Holy Spirit came upon them and gave them the power of God's spirit. They could heal, they could preach and they had a courage that was beyond words. The Holy Spirit is still with us today. It is with us at every move and decision we make. We may not be aware of it, but if we pray for God's direction we will receive it. The Holy Spirit comes to us in many forms, but the one we most recognize is when we are gathered together and celebrate his sacrament, The Holy Eucharist.

So come and pray in the name of the Trinity, come and pray in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Let the arms of God surround you and give you his peace as you journey though these next few months of summer.

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you always.

Rev. Carol

News from Carol's Corner

Parish Picnic on June 29th at the Stapers on Stein Road. Please call the Rector if you need directions. Service will start at 11:00 a.m. and Pot-luck to follow. Just bring food.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. all summer until the Sunday after Labor Day. **Wednesday services will be scheduled as usual, except during the Rector's vacation, which is July 26th to August 15th.**

We need help cleaning up the church. Please call the Rector if you can help. Everyone have a great Summer!

The Church mouse heard ...

... that Fr. David was trying to slip away on vacation without taking me. Fooled him!! I stowed away in the suitcase sleeve with plenty of snacks and cheese. I'll let you know how it was when we all get back.

See ya! ✕

Teddy Bear Sunday

By Meda Thrall

Thank you to everyone that participated on Youth Sunday and to all of you that gave bears. At the last count we gave 80+ bears, bunnies, dogs, etc. to the Delta Township Fire Department. Thanks to Firemen Kent Nordlund, Jeff Oates, and Jason Sarata for coming to the church to explain to the children what they do with the animals. They were so nice and thanked each child for helping.

We learned this year, because of a new state law, the firemen are allowed to collect only new small or medium-sized animals with tags left on. So hopefully we can get a head start on next year's collection. Watch for sales after Christmas, Valentine's, and Easter. Just a suggestion – WalMart, Meier, and Target have bears for sale at \$4.95 all the time.

This is a fine and worthwhile project for everyone. We really appreciate your help and generosity. ✕

Church bulletin bloopers

From Beliefnet©

"Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done."

"Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door."

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."

St. David's June Birthdays

1	Eryn Fleener
2	Fred Wegener
6	John Post
6	Sue Gabel
7	Jeff McNeil
9	Dick Otto
9	Kerry Chapin
13	Harry Grant
14	Carol Williams
15	Andrew Pike
16	Katy Rose Smith
16	Mike Wils
18	Pat Vine
19	Ross Hill
21	Kay Paff
23	Paul Kennedy
23	Heather Toslma
26	Dominique Damico
29	Dylan Lovejoy
30	Diane Kent

June Anniversaries

1	Richard & Tina Martzke
2	Reece & Elizabeth Robins
14	Tom & Nancy George
20	Walter & Marci Reynolds
20	John & Sandra Bechtel
21	Scottie & Helen Lee
25	John & Barb Post
25	Ric & Rhonda Sorrell
30	Mark & Doris Hosmer
30	Bobby & Kristin Pfauth

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

"Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa."

Watermens Corner

By Jim Thurston

Thank all of you who attended the Men/Boys corporate breakfast June 8. I believe it was a success with over 20 people attending.

August 2nd is the canoe trip for the entire church. A sign up sheet with directions from Lansing will be available mid July. We will be canoeing the Chippewa River near Mt. Pleasant. The trip will be about 2 - 2 1/2 hours with a cook out at Jim and Pat Thurston's home at Lake Isabella afterwards. We will provide the meat and the rest of the participants will need to bring a dish to pass. Hope you will attend. ☩

Summer's Lease Hath All Too Short a Date

By Maria Leiby

It happens every year. Summer flies by and before you know it, fall is here and it's CROP Walk time. This year's walk will be held on October 12th. It's good exercise for a good cause. If you've thought about walking in other years, but have never quite made it, start now in our long evenings (or early mornings) to get out and walk. By fall you'll be eager to join us. St. David's needs some new walkers!!

Questions? See Maria Leiby -- usually at the 9:30 service, but sometimes at the 8:00 in the summer. Thanks.

The End Is Near!

A local priest and a pastor were fishing on the side of the road. They thoughtfully made a sign saying, "The end is near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" and showed it to each passing car.

One driver who drove by didn't appreciate the sign and shouted at them, "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!"

All of a sudden they heard a big splash, looked at each other, and the priest said to the pastor, "You think maybe we should have just said 'Bridge Out' instead?"

© Beliefnet

St. David's July Birthdays

3	Alex Sharpe
4	Delores Lindstrom
6	Lisa Ward
7	Mary Lipka
7	Margaret Leiby
8	Candace Snyder
9	Tom Taylor
9	Tina Martzke
10	Frances Jacobs
10	Doris Hosmer
10	Julie Combs
12	Kenneth Cole
12	Eleanor Bishop
12	Yvonne Fleener
13	Delores Hartwick
14	David Byers
14	Clint Chapin
14	Kyle Knapp
16	Kent Allemeier
16	Stephan J. Smith
16	Don Flitton
18	Fred Lovejoy
19	Michael Johnson
19	Marci Reynolds
19	Karon Ellis
21	Ed Galvin
22	Tyler Lovejoy
23	Nancy Ristow
24	Bill Fleener
26	John Bechtel
28	Harold Payne
29	Jerry Williams
29	Jim Dooley
29	Mike Vaughn
30	Bonnie Shulnburg

July Anniversaries

7	Bill & Paula Hawes
7	Don & Janet Volk
9	Robert & Shirley Bailey
11	Richard & Carol Schmidt
14	Steven & Maria Leiby
15	Lee & Pearl Brooks
21	Bill & Sue Gabel

The Healing Corner

By Jerry Williams

The Order of St. Luke exists to practice and promote the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Therefore it is important for its members to be thoroughly familiar with what Jesus said and did when He healed. Last year, the St. David's/Capital Area Chapter of OSL presented a class on "The Healing Ministry of Jesus" that was open to all persons of area churches. Specifically the class studied the 26 healings performed directly by Jesus as described in the four Gospels. What follows is a summary of the class' discussions of one of these healing passages.

"The Healing of the Nobleman's Son" is recorded in John 4:46-54. (At this point, the reader is encouraged to read these verses.) In this passage, John recounts how a certain royal official sought out Jesus when He was in Cana and begged Him to come to Capernaum (about 20 miles away) to heal his son who was near death from a fever.

Even though Jesus, at first, seemed to put off the official, the man persisted in imploring Jesus to come and heal his son. At that point, Jesus simply says to the nobleman that his son will live and that he should go home.

The official takes Jesus at His word and leaves for Capernaum. On the way home, his servant meets him and tells him his son has been healed. The nobleman then determines that the healing had taken place at the precise time Jesus had told him his son would live. On this basis, John records that the nobleman and all in his household believed.

From our discussions of this passage, I learned much. For one thing, I learned that it is never wrong to ask God to heal another person even when the other person is far away or doesn't even know that I am praying for them. I don't have to be where the sick person is. All I need to do is to lift the person up to God and ask in faith and believe in faith for His healing touch. I also learned that God heals in the time and manner He deems best. The nobleman wanted Jesus to come with him to heal his son, but, I believe, Jesus simply prayed to His Father for the boy to be healed and it was so.

What a powerful witness of Jesus' love and compassion for a very sick boy and his distraught father! And what a powerful witness of the effect the boy's physical healing had on the spiritual health of his whole family!

We worship Jesus as the Risen Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important to remember that, in His earthly ministry, we must also try and see Jesus as one of us. It was in His humanity, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that Jesus effected this healing and the others recorded in Scripture. It is by that same Spirit that all followers of Jesus are empowered to do "even greater works in His Name." ✠

St. David's Christian Ed notes

By Debbie Davis

Sunday, June 29th 9:30 a.m. church service at Grand Woods Park. We are looking forward to seeing you and your family in joining us at the park for the church service, a cook out, lots of games and prizes for everyone! Don't forget your lawn chairs!

Church Camp starts in July!!! We have received applications for camp. We do have scholarships available to all the children this year. Please see Father David for details.

Vacation Bible School starts Sunday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. The kids have a great time so don't miss out on this great adventure! ✠

The Outreach Corner

By Andi Flitton

Since it has been awhile, many of you are probably wondering how many families we fed at Easter this year. Thanks to all of you and your generosity, we were able to feed 29 families. The ingathering of donations was the highest we have had so far. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We will be inviting the families from EVE's lace (formerly known as CADA) and SIREN to join us for our July 3 picnic. I will be out of town, so I would appreciate any helpful gestures toward these families. Many of the children would not feel safe, nor would their mother's feel safe to let them run and play, like they will be able to do at St. David's. Please encourage

your children to pay attention to our guests. We will also be inviting the families to Vacation Bible School. We may need help with transportation, please think about helping in that area if you are not working VBS.

As many of you know we have one day of the month that we serve dinner at the Rescue Mission, we have plenty of helpers for June, but we still need help for July, our date is July 29, and also for August, the date for August is the 19th.

In August, we will again be supporting Clothe a Child, through Judson Baptist Church. You may purchase an outfit, or one item, or underwear and socks. You may also contribute GENTLY USED clothing, nothing stained or torn. We are looking for sizes 4 through size 16.

Since Pat has been under the weather, if you have any questions please contact me, Andrea Flitton at 321-2219, Jerry Williams at 882-4142, or Charlotte Byers at 484-5802. Get Well Quick, Pat! ☩

Notes from St. David's library

By Margaret Smithka (aka *The Phantom Librarian*)

This may be my last communique. We are moving to Detroit. Many things need to be done still in the library, so this is a call for someone to step forward and take over. I have had no supplies, so many books need pockets and cards for folks to sign. We also need to wriggle some funds from the vestry to buy new books. I will leave catalogues and info on how to buy cheaply over the Internet. I had many ideas which never became fully implemented and will leave that info too.

Now for books.

I have just finished recently a timely book The Bible Cure by Reginald Cherry, MD. What is so wonderfully astonishing about this easy-to-read guide are the amazing truths which God gave us in ancient Hebrew times regarding food and diet. I try to keep up with the latest medical information regarding same and this doctor found the *same* health issues fully spelled out in the "Old Testament Covenant." He approaches the subject as a scientist, fully documents his assertions with Biblical directives and is so in line with what the doctors are telling us today. A few tidbits: a low fat Mediterranean Diet, olive oil, what to eat for

specific cures and ever so much more. This excellent book was given to us by Rhoda Swift and I thank her for it. (Guidepost 1998)

Another one I am presently enchanted by was sent to me by one of my daughters (and recent Divinity Graduate) The Sacred Romance (subtitled -- drawing Closer the Heart of God) by Brent Curtis & John Eldredge.(1997)- A wonderful inspiration to finding the love and heart of our original commitment to God.

A few teasers: (our world today) "substitutes busyness for meaning, efficiency for creativity and functional relationships for love." "The heart does not respond to principles and programs; it seeks not efficiency, but passion. Art, poetry, beauty, mystery, ecstasy: these are what rouse the heart." "This longing is the most powerful part of any human personality. It fuels our search for meaning, for wholeness, for a sense of being truly alive."...The voice that calls to us in this place is none other than the voice of God ..." Sadly, most of us watch the oil level in our car more carefully than we watch over the life of our heart. In one of the greatest invitations ever offered to man, Christ stood up amid the crowds in Jerusalem and said, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me . . . streams of living water will flow from within Him.' If we aren't aware of our soul's deep thirst, His offer means nothing." "Outer life and performance as the way of salvation mean nothing" ,,,Romance He has set within us. Most Christians have lost the life of their heart....." I love this and want to fall in love with God all over again. I hope the same for you and with this say Peace, Go with the Heart of God. ☩

VBS is coming !!

Aug 3-7, 2003

6:00-8:30 p.m.

St. David's

St. David's Episcopal Church
1519 Elmwood Drive
Lansing, MI 48917

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St. David's Annual Independence Day Celebration

July 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed at 5:00 p.m. to help set up.

Come and celebrate Independence Day with food, frolic friendship, and fireworks !!!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages, and condiments will be provided. Please bring your table service, a dish to pass, lawn chairs, and bug spray!! Then stay and watch the fireworks from Sharp Park at 10:00 p.m.

Results from Fr. David's Survey

By Jerry Williams

As many of you may recall, on January 12, Fr. David passed out pens and paper in church and asked us to answer three questions:

1. Why does St. David's exist?
2. How does St. David's touch the lives of people?
3. What is God calling us to do? or What is God gifting us to be?

Even though the survey came as a surprise and was given to only those attending the services that Sunday, it didn't take us long to fill up the blank paper. Over 100 individuals responded and their responses fill more than 13 pages.

Fr. David said then that the purpose of the survey was to give him and the Vestry a sense of what the parishioners believe has been our calling as a Christian community and what new directions, if any, God may be asking us to consider. The Vestry and Fr. David have reviewed the results. What follows is a brief summary of them and their significance to our church.

Question: Why does St. David's exist?

- To learn about God and to minister to the members of our church. (47 responses)
- To spread God's Word. (40 responses)
- To worship God. (33 responses)
- To minister to others. (26 responses)

Question: How does St. David's touch the lives of people?

- Through outreach to those in need. (63 responses)
- Through ministry to our parishioners. (27 responses)
- Through our worship services. (28 responses)
- Through our warmth and friendliness to visitors and newcomers. (12 responses)

Question: What is God calling us to do?

- To minister to our parishioners. (49 responses)
- To spread God's Word through Christian witness, preaching and teaching. (47)
- To help and serve others outside St. David's. (35 responses)

Some specific examples of potentially new callings to ministry were provided by several members. These included: offering St. David's as a retreat center or as a resource center for parishioners to obtain tax assistance, health screening or other forms of needed advice; developing a Christian-based day care center; and developing a drop-in center for youth and/or seniors.

In general, the results show:

- God is alive and well at St. David's.
- A deeply committed group of believers who love the Lord and each other.
- Members believe strongly that ministry to those both inside and outside the congregation is very important.
- Members desire to spread God's Word both through their actions and their words.

- Members believe in the importance of the various worship services and educational programs provided at St. David's to help grow their faith.
- A deep, personal attachment to St. David's, both to the members and the facility. A number of responders consider St. David's as their "second home".

Over and over again, the responses cite St. David's as a community of Christians that emphasizes:

- Worship and praise of God.
- Ministry to the members.
- Outreach to those in need.
- Spreading God's Word.
- Fellowship in a friendly and loving environment.

Next Steps

The survey indicates that we, the community at St. David's, have been doing a lot of the "right" things and we need to continue doing them. Additionally they indicate that God may be calling us to use the gifts He has given us to do "new" things. In either case, these results should serve as a guide for us in all that we undertake. What do you think? Fr. David and the Vestry very much want and need to hear your thoughts. Please contact any of us and share your thoughts, dreams and visions for St. David's.